

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: May 18, 2004

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS  
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA 212-Raymond-Willapa No.1 and Raymond-Henkel St.)

**Project #: V-O-04/07 & V-O-04/08**

TO: James A. Jellison  
Natural resource specialist – TFO/Olympia

**Proposed Action:** Vegetation Management along the Raymond-Willapa River No. 1, 115 kV (1/1 to 5/6) & Raymond-Henkle St. 115 kV (1/1 to 2/5) Transmission Line Corridors.

**Location:** The project lines are located near the city of Raymond in Pacific County, WA in BPA's Olympia Region.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

**Description of the Proposal:** BPA proposes to remove tall growing and noxious vegetation from the right of way and access roads that can potentially interfere with the operation, maintenance, and reliability of the transmission lines. Unwanted tall growing and noxious vegetation, danger trees, and reclaim trees will be removed and/or controlled inside the ROW using selective and nonselective methods that may include hand cutting, mowing, and herbicidal treatment. Vegetation management work will occur between structures 1/1 to 5/6 of the Raymond-Willapa River No. 1 transmission line, and from structures 1/1 to 2/5 of the Raymond-Henkle St. transmission line. Both lines originate at Raymond Substation and travel short distances to customer yards in the Raymond area. The project encompasses the entire right of way width for both of the BPA transmission lines in their respective right of way corridor. This proposal covers approximately 54 acres of land on the Raymond-Willapa River #1 115kV line and 8.2 acres of land on the Raymond-Henkle St. 115kV line.

**Analysis:** Vegetation Management Checklists were completed for project corridors in accordance with the requirements identified in the Bonneville Power Administrations Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285).

The subject corridor traverses private lands in Pacific County consisting of residential, rural residential, and private timber lands. No federal or tribal lands are involved.

Section 3 of the checklists identifies the natural resources present in the area of the proposed work. The following summarizes natural resources occurring in the project area along with applicable mitigation measures.

Water Resources: Water bodies (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) occurring in the project area are listed in section 3.1 of the Vegetation Management Checklists. Trees in riparian zones will be selectively cut to include only those that are within 50 feet of the conductor at maximum sag. Trees will be topped where shrubs are not present to provide shade and a silt buffer. Shrubs will not be cut that are less than 10 feet high where ground to conductor clearance is more than 50 feet. No ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the streams. The following herbicide buffers will be implemented for the project. Outside a 100' buffer from any stream, ponds, or wetlands Triclopyr BEE (common formulations, Garlon 4 & Tahoe 4E) may be applied. Formulations of Triclopyr TEA (common formulations Garlon 3A & Tahoe 3A) may be applied for spot or localized applications up to the waters edge. Formulations of Imazapyr (common formulations Arsenal & Chopper) may be applied for spot or localized applications up to one yard from the waters edge. For any initial or follow up broadcast treatment with Triclopyr TEA and Metsulfuron-methyl (Escort) or Imazapyr and Metsulfuron-methyl on sprouting stumps or brush a 35' buffer will be maintained from any stream, ponds, wetlands, or sensitive areas.

No drinking water, irrigation wells, or water supplies were identified along the rights of way for either line associated with this project.

Threatened and Endangered Species/Essential Fish Habitat: Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, BPA has made a determination of whether its proposed project will have any effects on any listed species. A species list was obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on March 22, 2004, identifying threatened and endangered species potentially occurring in the project area. In addition a review of species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries was conducted. Review of site specific information determined that no listed species or designated critical habitat were found to be present along either of the project corridors. A determination of No Effect was made for all ESA listed species and designated critical habitat for the project and for Essential Fish Habitat.

Cultural Resources: The Chehalis tribe was contacted regarding cultural resources. No cultural resources are known for the project area. If a site is discovered during the course of vegetation control, work will be stopped in the vicinity and the Chehalis tribe, the BPA Environmental Specialist, and the BPA archeologist will be contacted.

Re-Vegetation: Re-vegetation needs will be determined onsite. Any areas identified with limited ground cover will be replanted with native plant species.

Monitoring: The entire project will be inspected during the work period. Additionally the line will be patrolled annually after treatment to monitor the effectiveness of the treatment and any issues associated with the project.

**Findings:** This Supplement Analysis finds that (1) the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285) and ROD, and; (2) there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. This Supplement Analysis also finds the proposed actions will not affect threatened or endangered species. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

*/s/ James R. Meyer for* \_\_\_\_\_

Greg P. Tippetts  
Physical Scientist

CONCUR: */s/ Thomas C. McKinney* \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 5/19/2004

Attachment:  
Vegetation Management Checklist

cc:

L. Croff – KEC-4  
T. McKinney – KEC-4  
J. Meyer – KEP-4  
J. Sharpe – KEPR-4  
G. Tippetts – KEPR/Olympia  
P. Key – LC-7  
J. Hilliard Creecy – T-DITT2  
K. Rodd – TF/DOB-1  
A. Campbell – TFO/Olympia  
D. Krauss – TFO/Olympia  
T. Grover – TFOF/Olympia  
Environmental File – KEC-4  
Official File – KEP-4 (EQ-14)